

Therefore, Mr. Beasley, I congratulate you on a long productive and beneficial life, I also commend you and your family for your active civic and community involvement. It has been a pleasure to personally know you and your family and to have had you as part of my life. I thank you Madam Speaker.

#### KURT VONNEGUT, JR.'S CONTRIBUTION TO AMERICAN LITERATURE

##### HON. DAVID LOEBSACK

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 19, 2007*

Mr. LOEBSACK. Madam Speaker, I rise today to speak about Kurt Vonnegut Jr. and to extend my condolences to his family on his passing.

While teaching at the Iowa Writers' Workshop, which I am honored to represent in Iowa's Second District, Mr. Vonnegut received the Guggenheim Scholarship to return to Dresden, Germany and begin work on the novel that would eventually come to be known as *Slaughterhouse Five*. Mr. Vonnegut taught at the Workshop from 1965–1967, and Iowa mourns the loss of one of America's finest writers and one of the many fine writers who have helped to carry on the tradition of exceptional writing in Iowa.

Kurt Vonnegut was a writer capable of capturing the imagination of not only his generation, but of America's youth for generations to come. His works examine the moral compass of America, and his often hilarious satirization of the culture of our time has earned him the rightful reputation of America's most celebrated satirist since Mark Twain. Yet he was also a humanist who not only examined some of the most defining moments in our history—most famously World War II in *Slaughterhouse Five*—but also, and in spite of the violence he had seen as a prisoner of war, concluded that human kindness is alive and well. His contributions to American culture are immense and will not soon be forgotten.

Thank you, Mr. Vonnegut, for your contribution to American literature.

#### TRIBUTE TO ROBERT E. GUT

##### HON. BILL PASCRELL, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 19, 2007*

Mr. PASCRELL. Madam Speaker, I would like to call to your attention the deeds of a person I am proud to represent, Mr. Robert E. Gut, who will be recognized on Thursday, April 19, 2007 on the occasion of his retirement, for his dedication to education and scholastic sports.

Bob was born in 1932 to Antonina and Frank Gut. He and siblings Nellie, Stanley and Eugene grew up in the City of Passaic until the family purchased a home and moved to Garfield. Bob attended Holy Rosary Elementary and Pope Pius XII High School in Passaic, where his talents began to shine. He earned varsity letters in three sports each year and was captain of the baseball and basketball teams and co-captain of the football team. Upon his retirement, coach and athletic direc-

tor Paul Kelly called Bob, "The greatest athlete he ever coached—bar none," and "a natural." Bob was named to the All State teams in all three sports. His record has stood the test of time; in 2000 he was named a Passaic County "Player of the Century" in football by the Bergen Record and Herald News.

Bob caught the attention of some of our area's most legendary coaches, Al Yaskiw and Manlio Boverini of Passaic, Arthur Argauer of Garfield, and Paul Kelly of Pope Pius XII. They mentored him, and helped him earn numerous football scholarships. He accepted a full football scholarship to the University of Virginia, where he played offensive center and defensive linebacker. He continued to thrive, being part of a defense that in 1952 was number one in the Nation. In 1954, he returned to Passaic to coach football at Passaic High. Later that year, he completed R.O.T.C. and was commissioned a Second Lieutenant in the U.S. Army. He was sent to Fort Knox, KY for training in the Armor Division, and assigned to serve in Germany. Bob married his wife, Florence, on April 17, 1955, and they moved together to Wieseck, Germany. While there, their daughter, Karen, was born in Frankfurt, Germany.

In 1956, Bob returned from Germany and began his professional career teaching physical education at School 21 in Paterson. During his first year of teaching, he was transferred to Central High where he taught science and was the school's first track coach. In 1965, Central closed, and Bob moved to the new John F. Kennedy High School. While teaching at Kennedy, Bob coached many teams. He became the head coach of golf, track and tennis and was an assistant to many great football coaches like Nelson Graham, Aubrey Lewis, Joe Biscayan, Bob Smith, and Jim Bradshaw. In 1960–65, he was head football coach at Pope Pius XII while teaching at Kennedy. In 1966 he returned to the assistant coach role at Kennedy, and in 1974 became the Knights head coach. In 1974 the football team had its first undefeated season, going 9–0. Importantly, his team never lost a Thanksgiving game to Eastside, and shut the Ghosts out in four of the six games.

In 1979, Bob became the Athletic Director at Kennedy High, which under his leadership in the 1980s and 90s, became known as "Championship High." The Boys Basketball team won four County titles in a row, and a sectional title; the Girls team won five straight county titles and the Tournament of Champions. Championships, League and Sectional titles were also won by the Track, Cross Country, Soccer, Baseball and Football teams. As Athletic Director, Mr. Gut has organized the annual John F. Kennedy All Sports Awards Dinner, and he was involved in the creation of the Central-Kennedy Athletic Hall of Fame.

Bob's professionalism has extended beyond Passaic County. He has long been a high school referee and umpire. He formerly served as President of the Tri-County Basketball Officials Association, which held tournaments for freshman and JV teams from 32 schools. He has served for the past 28 years as the Chairperson of Bowling in the Northern New Jersey Interscholastic League. He has served for 20 years on the Advisory Board and Eligibility Committee of the NJSIAA, the governing body of high school sports in New Jersey, and has been the chairperson of the Eligibility Committee for the past 10 years. He also volun-

teers his time as part of the Passaic County Coaches Association, the Old Timers Association of Greater Paterson, and The Do-Good House.

What Bob is proudest of is his strong moral and ethical standards, which led his coaches to nickname him "The Monsignor." Sportsmanship has always been his first priority for his players, coaches, and the fans. This effort is shown by the many times the NJSIAA has given Kennedy its "Sportsmanship Award," and the NNJL Sportsmanship banners they have earned. Always important to Bob has been his family; he and Florence celebrated their 52nd anniversary this month. His daughter lives nearby with her husband Jim Giblin and their two children. His grandson James is a sophomore at The College of New Jersey and his granddaughter Kristen is a senior at Wayne Valley High School.

The job of a United States Congressman involves much that is rewarding, yet nothing compares to working with and recognizing the efforts of dedicated public servants like Bob.

Madam Speaker, I ask that you join our colleagues, the students of the Paterson Schools, the City of Paterson, the State of New Jersey, Bob's family and friends, and me in recognizing Bob Gut's outstanding service to his community.

#### IN HONOR OF PETER SHUGERT

##### HON. ALBIO SIRE

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 19, 2007*

Mr. SIRE. Madam Speaker, I rise in honor of Peter Shugert, Chief Public Affairs Officer of the Army Corps of Engineers, who is about to retire after more than two decades of dedicated service. Mr. Shugert has worked tirelessly, not only to keep area residents informed of vital Corps operations, but he has also gone above and beyond the call of duty by becoming a treasured liaison during emergencies between government agencies and the people of the New York Metropolitan region.

Mr. Shugert, who earned a reputation as a highly credible spokesperson and media representative for the United States Army, began his professional career in the military. His service in the Vietnam War won him the National Defense Service Medal, the Army Commendation Medal, the Vietnam Service Medal and the Vietnam Campaign Medal.

In 1977, Mr. Shugert became Public Affairs Specialist for the Military Traffic Management Command in Virginia, and in 1982, made important contributions to the Office of the Chief of the Army Reserves, where he developed products to increase public awareness.

In his 20 years as Chief of Public Affairs for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers District of New York Division, Mr. Shugert developed and maintained excellent media relations that ensured the best possible image for the Army Corps of Engineers. During his service, Mr. Shugert faced the tragedy of the 9/11 terror attacks and worked around the clock to keep the public informed. His dedication earned him the Locke L. Mouton Award for Excellence in Public Affairs, the Crisis Communications Award, the Superior Civilian Service Medal, and the Civilian Award for Humanitarian Service.